

OPEN SEASON FOR WILD DUCKS - 1961/62

The Minister for Fisheries, Mr Ross Hutchinson, announced recently that the 1961/62 season for wild ducks will open on the second weekend before Christmas. The closing date will be April 30, 1962.

Details of the opening given by the Minister were as follows:-

- (a) At 6 p.m. in the evening of Saturday, December 16, in the Shires of Augusta-Margaret River, Balingup, Bridgetown, Busselton, Capel, Collie, Dardanup, Greenbushes, Harvey, Manjimup, Nannup and Preston.
- (b) At 5 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, December 17, in the remainder of the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions not included in the Shires named.

Duck-shooting, said Mr Hutchinson, will nevertheless not be lawful in any of the following areas, which have been set aside as sanctuaries:-

- (a) The whole of the area within a radius of 20 miles of the General Post Office, Perth.
- (b) All municipalities and townsites in the South-West Land Division.
- (c) The whole of the Rockingham Shire.
- (d) The whole of the waters of Lakes Leschenaultia, Yealering and Seppings, and Bambun, Wagin, Nambung, Mungala, Nannarup and Wardering Lakes and all land within 20 chains of their shores.
- (e) The whole of the waters of the Vasse, King and Kalgan Rivers, and all land within 20 chains of their banks.
- (f) The whole of the waters of Vasse and Wonnerup Estuaries and all land within 20 chains of their shores.
- (g) All the waters of the Leschenault Inlet extending southwards from a line drawn south-east from Waterloo Head (Belvedere) on the west foreshore to a point on the opposite foreshore.
- (h) All that portion of the Capel River between the Capel and Stirling Bridges and all land within 20 chains of the river bank.

- (i) All that portion of the Coblinine River downstream from the eastern side of the bridge at the junction of road 3375 and road 323 (Oxley Road) to its mouth at the high-water mark of Dumbleyung Lake and all land within 20 chains of that part of the river's banks.
- (j) The whole of Caro Swamp and all land within 80 chains of its shores.
- (k) The whole of the waters of Oyster Harbour and Princess Royal Harbour and all land within a radius of 20 chains of their shores.
- (l) The whole of the area of the Yanchep Caves Reserve.
- (m) The whole of the Harvey Catchment area.
- (n) The whole of the area within a radius of two miles of the Post Office at Mandurah.
- (o) The whole of the area within a radius of two miles of the Post Office at Boyup Brook.
- (p) The whole of the area within a radius of one and one-half mile from the Post Office at Balingup.
- (q) All that portion of the Avon River in the Toodyay District, between the northern boundary of Avon Location 3 and a point opposite road number 2069, and all land within 20 chains of the river banks.
- (r) All that portion of the Avon River from Dumbarton Bridge to the Railway Bridge, north of Toodyay and all land within 20 chains of the river banks.
- (s) All that portion of the Serpentine River from road 8629 at the southern end of Goegrup (Willies) Lake to Peel Inlet near the old Mill and all the land within 20 chains of the river banks.
- (t) All State Forests, Timber Reserves, town reservoirs and other areas where shooting is prohibited under the provisions of any Act, regulation or by-law.

He had agreed to exclude a part of the Coblinine River from the open season, the Minister continued, as the local Shire Council was developing a swimming-pool in that area. At the same time he had not acceded to a request to close most of Dumbleyung Lake. Caro Swamp, which was on a private land in the Dandaragan district, had now been closed to shooting as it was intended to use it in co-operation with the owners in waterfowl research.

Referring to the earlier opening, the Minister said that the season would open a week earlier this year to allow the game to be prepared in time for use on Christmas Day. If the opening of the season were delayed until the week-end before Christmas, as was normal, there would be insufficient time for shooters to visit their favoured sites and to return home to participate in family festivities.

The Minister also pointed out that Cape Barren Geese were not included in the open season for wild ducks. He appealed to visitors to Esperance not to interfere with the geese or any other fauna on the islands of the Recherche Archipelago, which were a sanctuary for all wild-life. Mr Hutchinson also called for full co-operation from all shooters in policing game conservation measures. He asked them to acknowledge the concession extended to them this year by respecting the opening dates and times.

Mr Hutchinson concluded by drawing attention to the following restrictions which were designed, he said, to conserve duck stocks -

- * the use of traps is entirely prohibited throughout the State;
- * spotlights are an illegal device;
- * sale of wild ducks is forbidden;
- * no person shall keep wild ducks in captivity.

UNUSUAL FAUNA OBSERVATIONS

Through lack of space we omitted from the last issue of this Bulletin a report received from Assistant Inspector E.H. Barker on the sighting of a Red-tailed Tropic Bird (or Bosun Bird) near Lancelin on September 12, 1961. Mr Barker, who was accompanied by Assistant Inspector N.K. Henry at the time, saw the bird flying around Edward Island, a fauna sanctuary just south of Lancelin. They were told by Mr R. Brown, a crayfisherman, that he had seen the Bosun Bird on several occasions during the previous six weeks.

This species is rare. A small nesting colony has been reported at different times on Pelsart Island in the Southern Group of Houtman Abrolhos, and a lone bird has nested twice